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REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 15-19, 22-26, 30, 31, 33 and 34 are pending herein. New claim 34 is added hereby as supported by Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application.

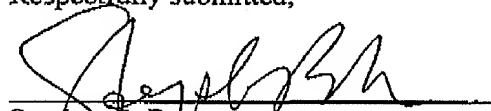
Applicants intend to discuss new claim 34 with Examiner Forman during a personal interview, which is tentatively scheduled to occur on September 10, 2002. New claim 34, which has been added to distinguish the sample well structure disclosed in Felder et al., recites, among other things, that a base plate has a plane defining an uppermost surface thereof and the uppermost surface of the biochip is defined by upper portions of a plurality of spots.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

September 6, 2002

Date


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